NATERPROO

RIGBY

ROUS

BY H. SHOR

that United States tank cars may be allowed to

run in loaded upon our lines.

The Standard Oil Co., the hunest trust in the United States—yet in healthy existence in a changed form merely, notwithstanding its nominal dissolution some time ago is no doubt somewhere in the background of this movement Canadian consumers are naturally on the side of it, as it means cheaper oil to them. The gas companies will naturally espouse the cause of tank importation, as their object is to get crude in as cheap as possible, as material for the proluction of gas oil. Refiners could not bring in crude for their purposes, as they burn up too much of it in refining. There is therefore no benefit in the change for them, and certainly none for the domestic producers of crude, who have enough to do to get along with the measure protection they have. The competition among refiners in this country makes it nearly impossible for them to increase capital from profits. They can only do so when they have wells coupled with their refineries, and thus produce their own raw material, and when they make in addition to illuminating oils such other petroleum products as benzine, vaseline, other petroleum products as benzine, vaseline, hoof ointments, engine oils, cylinder oils, gasoline, paraffine wax, etc. The narrowness of the refiners' margin is shown in the following statement of cost as compared with selling price: Crude oil, including pipage, costs \$1.30 per barrel at the refinery. Two and a half barrels of crude furnish the material for one barrel of refined; hence the latter costs \$3.25. The cost of refining is leper gallon, which makes 350 more to the cost of the barrel of refined. Barreling is about 3c. So that the total cost of a barrel of refined So that the total cost of a barrel of refined before it leaves the refinery is about \$3.63. The refiner puts it on the track, and gets 11c per gallon or \$3.85 per barrel in car lots. The difference between selling price and cost of production is 22c per barrel. This and 10½ gallous of tar obtained from the crude have to bear the cost of loading and shipping, the wear and tear of plant, interest on capital and profit.

In this country we cannot produce petroleum cheaply enough to use the crude oil for fuel. The duty prevents the importation of crude for that purpose, as well as for refining, and importation in bulk will hardly help the matter, though Ohio crude is much richer than ours, though Ohio crude is fruen frener than ours, yielding about one third more of refined and costing at the well only about one-fourth of what the Canadian dees. But it any considerable part of the duty were taken oil, it is unquestionably that the capital in our wells and underground tanks would depreciate very greatly and become unproductive of profit. It is improbable that the Government will accede to the request of the petitioners who want petroleum in bulk. The policy of protecting domestic industries is one to which the Government is greatly committed, and the economy it announced at the time it took the Juty off sugar, as a consequence of that step, is likely to make it unwilling to part with a resource of nearly a million dollars per year, which is now yield the United States oil imported into this country. The class of oil brought in is superior as a rule to that produced in Canada and to that of the average quality of consumption in the United States. It is only choice brands that we need to import for illuminating purposes.

The importation of oil in bulk would probably lead to its delivery in bulk, in wagon tanks, if the law permitted that mode of distribution. In the immense improvements made in the means and methods of transportation and distribution by the Standard Oil Company has a great part of the secret of that trust's vast business, as it has been a great agency in the reduction of prices and the extension of the demand for refined petroleum.—Toronto Hard-

Alfred Hortman, tinsmith, New Westmin ster, has assigned.

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